

# Greenways and Cyclerooutes Summer Workcamp Waddesdon Greenway 30 June – 7 July 2018

The Waddesdon Greenway near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, will be a walking and cycling route linking Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station (the end of the line from Marylebone) to Waddesdon and Waddesdon Manor. The Manor has 450,000 visitors a year, but the frightening traffic on the A41, including many HGVs associated with the HS2 project, means only the determined walk or cycle from Aylesbury or the train from London.

Construction started at the beginning of April. Local contractors aim to complete the basic path by the start of our work camp at the end of June. The work camp will build the bridges and make the finishing touches needed to get the path ready to open to the public.

Please contact us [greenwaysandcyclerooutes@gmail.com](mailto:greenwaysandcyclerooutes@gmail.com) to express an interest, say whether you want to camp or come as a day visitor, and indicate rough days to help us plan and so we can give you last minute joining instructions. Do not worry if you need to change your mind – we will not hold you to your word.

## Who

Volunteers are welcome to come either day by day, or to camp for all or any part of the week. We welcome everyone. No previous experience is necessary. There will be a variety of work, although most of it will be physically quite hard. Children are welcome to join in, but only under supervision of a responsible adult. The workcamp will be led by John Grimshaw, who founded Sustrans and the National Cycle Network. The team will include leaders with up to 40 years experience of building cyclerooutes and managing volunteers.

## When

Friday 29 June – setting up and first campers arrive

Saturday 30 June – Friday 6 July working days 9.00 and 5.00

Saturday 7 July final working and public welcome event in the afternoon

Sunday 8 July – packing up.

## What to bring

- Picnic if a day visitor
- Old clothes which you don't mind being wrecked by dirt or glue, strong shoes, wellies if you want to work in ditches.
- Sun hat
- Water bottle
- Favourite gloves if you have them.
- Chisel and mallet if you do woodwork, as we may be short of tools on some days [put at the end – more specialist than the others).
- Tents/sleeping bags etc. if camping
- Bicycle if you can – the site is long
- National Trust card if you have one



## **Day visitors**

You are welcome to join the workcamp between Saturday 30 June and Saturday 7 July for as many or as few days as you wish – even if you can only spare a few hours. If you can let us know in advance by emailing [greenwaysandcycleroutes@gmail.com](mailto:greenwaysandcycleroutes@gmail.com) that would be helpful – but do not worry if you cannot.

Join us at either the Waddesdon or the Berryfields end of the route. Between 9 and 5 you should find volunteers working who will have a joining sheet, and be able to point you to some suitable work. If you cannot find anyone, then please ring John Grimshaw on 07792 714 708 or Caroline Levett on 07514 568 386

*Waddesdon* – come to the work camp base at the far end of the main Waddesdon Manor car park and speak to one of our volunteers. The camp will be signed with large yellow flags.

*Berryfields/Aylesbury Vale Parkway station* - Join the route at the station car park, and go through the newly opened tunnel under the tracks at the end of the platforms, and 400m down to the new bridge over the Fleet Marston brook.

## **Overnight visitors**

The camping field will be just near the work camp base at the bottom of the main Waddesdon Manor car park. The Manor are making their visitor centre washrooms available to us – for our private use when the house is not open to the public. Showers for ladies will be in a nearby private house and for gents in the Village Cricket club pavilion.

If you are staying overnight please bring your own tent and sleeping bag etc.

The Five Arrows at Waddesdon, an excellent hotel, is just nearby if you need a break from life under canvas. There is also an excellent pub with rooms, the Lion, in the village - but it can be booked out.

Campers will be welcome to join in the camp catering, with three meals a day provided. Those who joined us in 2016 and 2017 know that we will be very well looked after by Chris and Claire. Plate, mugs and cutlery will be provided. You will be asked simply to contribute £10 for food.

## **Health and Safety**

This is a working construction site and you must take all reasonable care to look after your own and your team's safety. All campers will be introduced to the work and the optimum way of doing it, when they arrive. We will give you a HiViz top to wear and your project leader will outline any issues you need to be aware of in your area. You will all be given the phone numbers of the key camp managers, and local emergency numbers. The camp will have a first aid kits along its length, but each camper should bring what would be normal when camping. Note that our contractors will be finishing off the main path works and will be delivering supplies and materials to the various workcamp locations. You should take great care in the presence of plant and moving equipment. Power tools will only be used by experienced volunteers.

## **The work**

There is a wide range of work during the week, which should ensure that everybody can find a task which they enjoy and find rewarding. Tasks will be allocated each day. Each task will have an expert leader. They will show you what to do, and how to do it, starting with a short "toolbox" explanation each day.

The actual path will be built by a local contracting firm, Hazell and Jefferies, so we are doing all the fun bits. Although other items are bound to arise, this is what we plan to do during the work camp:

*Fleet Marsden Brook Bridge* – 12m steel span being delivered by CTS in kit form. We have to assemble it and bolt it together. Team Leaders *David Gray* and *Andy Hatch* will supply the knowhow and the tools.

*Waddesdon Balancing pond bridge* – 21m bridge in 3 spans from hardwood delivered in kit form by Sarum. *Steve Shrewsbury* and *Peter Huxford* are the team leaders and will direct the work and provide tools.

7 “*Thame*” style seats with mitred joints. Please bring your own mallet and chisel if you fancy making one of these. You could follow your seat to be concreted in place the next day.

*Concrete gang for posts, seats and chicanes.* We will have a mixer which can be moved from site to site, *David Judd* is our concreting specialist, the team will need to excavate the necessary holes and accurately position the feature into the ground. We will use post-crete where appropriate.

*Path building.* We are keeping two short woodland sections of path for campers to build under the direction of *Billy Hazel*. These sections will be laid on plastic grids to allow for tree root movement. We may finish these sections in limestone dust.

*Fencing.* *Andy Hatch* will oversee erecting 400m fencing on posts we have driven already. This task also includes removing 500m of redundant fencing as well as finishing gates and other boundary fences.

3 *Corten prototype Roman Road pyramids.* *Keith Hallet* is working on markers to line up on the Roman road. These will need to be finished off and bolted into place.

*Finishing off the verges.* Spreading and raking top soil on the shoulders of the path ready for seeding. This will ease future maintenance, as well as making the path much more attractive.

*Seeding wildflower mixes.* This task is assigned to Waddesdon Primary School. Each pupil will tackle a short section of path which will be marked out with their names burnt into posts. The annual wildflower seed cup will be presented to these delivering the finest sections.

*Culvert headworks.* The 25 culverts along this path will need headwalls from hessian sandbags – nearly 3000 of them. *David Fish* will show how this is done. The Waddesdon sandbag cup will be presented to the most deserving headwall team effort.

*Route signing.* *George Manders* and local cyclists will coordinate the signing of existing cycling routes in Berryfields and Aylesbury leading to Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station and Waddesdon.

*LED light installation.* Some 100 lights will be installed along the centreline of the path at key locations. *Simon Banbury* will coordinate this along with any painting of signs or markings on the surface of the Waddesdon Greenway.

*End of camp event.* We will prepare banners and the programme for a community event to launch the path, on 7 July.

*PR* There is intense public interest in this project. Leaflets will be available for you to give to inquirers and to encourage people to join in either now, or the ride and walk at the end of the camp, and to help manage the path as rangers thereafter. We also need people to sign up to help with winter planting.

If the press turns up, or dignitaries visit the works, please be happy to parade your knowledge and enthusiasm for the Waddesdon Greenway!

*John Grimshaw and Caroline Levett for Greenways and Cycleroutes Limited 5 June 2018*